

The **SCOOP**

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The newsletter for the Knoxville Area Model Railroad Club, Inc.
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Business meeting Sunday, September 2, at 4:430 PM

Conductor's Comments - Larry Burkholder, President

A few more hot weeks and we'll be into fall. The museum is spending some serious money on water keeping the garden railroad alive. When summer travel is over maybe we will get more into our model railroading. Hopefully we'll see more of you at the club.

We will have a meeting Labor Day weekend on Sunday the 2nd. There will be a short business meeting at about 4:30 pm. Note the earlier time. The museum closes at 4 pm so we can get started a little earlier if we want to.

In September we go back to our 3rd Sunday open house. This month it will be on the 16th. Hours are 1 to 4 pm.

Last month I mentioned the special clinic on scratch building structures the Crossville club is offering in October. That's still on, but recently I was informed that their large scale group is having a garden railroad tour of 6 or 7 outside layouts in Crossville on Saturday, September 15th. I have asked for hours and locations, but haven't heard yet. I'll get more info out as soon as I get it.

One of our members, Stephan Clark, has opened a brick and mortar hobby store at #300 County Road 750 in Athens. It is called "Trains to Planes Hobbies". The phone number is 423-745-0149. Business cards are available at the club.

It is a little early, but planning is well underway for this year's museum Gala on December 7th. I am Chairman of the Auction Committee. If any of you have something unusual or particularly nice you don't need any longer and you are willing to donate it to the museum to be auctioned off that night, let me know. This is not a yard sale, so items have to be reasonably valuable or truly unique, in excellent condition, and of general interest. Items do not have to be railroad related. Proceeds from the Gala go towards the new building we are planning for our Large Scale Division and the fire truck exhibit. There is about \$32,000 in the fund from previous Gala's. We estimate the building will cost about \$150,000.

Of special interest to all is the upcoming 8th annual train show sponsored by the French Broad eNpire NTrak Club; it is a classic small club show with few vendor and a lot of sellers (bargains can be found!) It is held at the Bonclarken

Assembly Auditorium just south of Hendersonville/Asheville (take I-26 exit 53)
Friday (3 - 7 pm) and Saturday (10 am - 3 pm), October 12 & 13.

I don't know if this needs KAMR Board approval or not, but it is time to make Bill Wood an Honorary Member. Bill has been a loyal and long-time member of our club and now finds it really difficult to get to the club. Hopefully we can occasionally find a ride for Bill and he can visit with us once in awhile.

HO Division - Alex Cameron

Things have changed somewhat for September. Here are the dates. Regular club Sunday is meeting on September 2 and September 16, starting about 1:30. Saturday work sessions will be on September 8, 22 and 29, starting at 9:30. Provisional Thursday work sessions will be on September 6, 13, 20, and 27, starting at 9:30, but you will need to check with me to see if we will actually meet that day.

As I said in the e-mail I asked Clif to distribute, the Tellico Village group has decided that they would rather come on Saturday instead of Thursday, because it fits their schedule better and also in the hope that with more people coming on Saturday, some of the infrequent member would be encouraged to attend. And we had a good turnout this last Saturday. I am going to continue to schedule a Thursday work session, but as I have said, you need to check with me on a week to week basis. I have worked both the last Thursdays, but only until about noon. We have maintained our slow but steady progress this past month.

We had a good run session on our monthly open house run day for the Museum. We have had a few track related operating problems, which we are addressing as we identify them. The recent ones are related to running long wheelbase steam locomotives. Work progresses on scenery in the mine area, and on the engine terminal

I have finished all but a few minor details on the NG/SG crossing area, and was running a locomotive into Upper and Lower Seaside on Saturday. Because of the #4 switch in Lower Seaside, 6 axle diesels don't do well there. Richard Atwood has fixed the curved switch on the lower loop that was derailing cars taking the reversing cutoff, and Mike Lynch has built a photo detector for the mine loop, that will tell an operator when he is clear of switch points that the operator cannot easily see.

Remember that the third Sunday is a run day, so come and run trains. Or not. Just come and see what has been happening. Come run trains, or just hang around.

N-Scale Activities - Bruce McElhoe, N Coordinator - hmcelhoe@aol.com

The extension to the loop module is becoming a reality. Work is progressing quickly after the module extension framework was installed. Using a fine supply of five-finger discount 2-inch thick foam (thanks HO'ers) the base scenery has been built up to grade level of the spur going into this area. The

track plan has been roughed in to identify our track and switch needs. The next step is to start covering the 2-track main (tunnel building).

The new icing house has been positioned and a roughed in track plan placed on the brewery module. There was also room to place an additional spur into another industry abutting the icing house.

We are seeking any panoramic type photos of an airfield to use as a backdrop for our Air National Guard base. We have not been having any luck finding this and my suggestion to go out to McGee-Tyson and climb up on the fence to take some pictures has been met with some reservations. ☺ If anyone has something that might “do the trick,” please contact the n-scale coordinator.

At our last gathering, we n-scaler's discussed resurrecting the small potable “Lavin” layout. (The layout is currently at the Mall and run during each of the Large Scale open house days so it is in pretty good running shape. ed.) This was just some initial talk, as it would take some considerable dedication to refurbishing this layout. The thought is to have a small layout that could be accompanied by a sales table (?) to take to train shows. This is hoping that train shows get their ducks back in a row again.

Don't forget that the Mid-South Live Steamers will be at it again at the end of September. This is a fun and free event. It makes for an easy day trip to enjoy the chuffs of coal burners and such. There are also some pretty darn good places to eat in Columbia, Tennessee as well.

I will close for now by encouraging all of us to continue utilizing our web site at www.knoxmodelrailroaders.com. Sharing anything about trains (and food) is good!

Large Scale Rails - Jim Schall

We have had several of our past members stop by recently. Bill BuChan was up for his son's 21st birthday (I think Bill was here to see to it that the boys did not Party toooo hearty.) It was great to hear the roar of the mighty Lionels and Bill's agonies when things go bump!!

Bob Dexter has been able to get by several evening and we enjoyed his company and his Sn3 and On30 models that he brought with him. Also John Amburgey has been back and interested in renewing his participation and is hopes of constructing a few modules at home for his pleasure and intends to take an active part in our layout scienicing.

Most of us have done some traveling this summer but we will soon be into our fall Sunday open house schedule once things settle down. In the mean time we continue to work (visit) on the layouts every Wednesday evening --- stop in and visit you might actually catch working!!